

Message Text

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20

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-08 TAR-02 PRS-01

USIA-15 AGR-20 DRC-01 /135 W
----- 066052

R 210547Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1712

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E.O. 111652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD KS TW

SUBJECT: MUSHROOMS

REF: SEOUL 8520

1. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR CALLED ON VICE FOREIGN MINISTER YUN DECEMBER 21 IN EFFORT TO PROD ROKG INTO BEGINNING SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS ON MUSHROOMS. YUN BASICALLY MADE STANDARD KOREAN POINTS WHICH HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN REPORTED. AMONG THEM WERE A) ROKG HAS NO OBJECTION TO CONSULTATION ON ANY SUBJECT WITH FRIENDLY NATIONS SUCH AS USG; B) TIMING OF US REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS ON MUSHROOM EXPORT LEVELS IS UNFORTUNATE IN VIEW OF PETROLEUM CRISIS AND ITS SEVERE IMPACT ON KOREAN ECONOMY; C) ROKG BELIEVES MAIN CAUSE OF DIFFICULTIES BESETTING US MUSHROOM INDSTRY IS TAIWAN, AND KOREA IS "BEING VICTIMIZED AGAIN" EVEN THOUGH SHE IS NOT REALLY THE GUILTY PARTY;

D) ANY MUSHROOM EXPORT CONGROL ARRANGEMENT MUST BE "EQUITABLE" AND GIVE FULL AND FAIR CONSIDERATION TO
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FACT THAT KOREA'S CURRENT SHARE OF US MARKET IS

MUCH SMALLER THAN TAIWAN'S.

2. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR ASSURED YUN THAT EMBASSY HAS REPORTED AND WILL CONTINUE TO REPORT IN DETAIL ROKG'S VIEWS. HOWEVER, IMPORTANT NEXT STEP IS ACTUAL START OF SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS. HE URGED ROKG TO SET A DATE WHEN DISCUSSIONS COULD BEGIN. IT WAS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT PERHAPS MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF COMMUNICATING TO USG ROKG'S DEFINITION OF EQUITY IN THIS MATTER WOULD BE TO MAKE SPECIFIC COUNTER PROPOSALS ON BASE YEAR AND GROWTH RATES TO BE INCORPORATED INTO EVENTUAL AGREEMENT.

3. YUN AGREED TO CONSULT WITH OTHER MINISTRIES IN ORDER TO DEVELOP SPECIFIC ROKG POSITION WHICH WOULD ALLOW SUBSTANTIVE CONSULTATIONS TO BEGIN.

4. COMMENT: WHILE IT IS LIKELY THAT RESULTING ROKG COUNTER PROPOSAL WILL CONTAIN UNREALISTICLY HIGH BASE YEAR AND GROWTH RATE ELEMENTS, IMPORTANT THING IS TO BEGIN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS, AND WE BELIEVE YUN WILL SEE THAT THEY BEGIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE. DECONTROL FOLLOWING 12/31/74
UNDERHILL

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